

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 10-13, 18-25, and 37-49 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claims 1-9, 14, 15, and 26-36 have been amended, and claims 50-71 have been added. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry of the foregoing amendments and new claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-9, 14-17, 26-36, and 50-71 are pending and under consideration.

PATENTABILITY OF NEW CLAIMS:

Claims 55, 58, 66, and 67 are deemed patentable due at least to reasons similar to why claims 1-9, 14-17, 26-36 are deemed patentable. Claims 50-54, 56, 57, 59-65, and 68-71 are deemed patentable due at least to their depending from corresponding claims 1, 2, 14, 26, and 55.

CONCLUSION:

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI LLP

By:

James G. McEwen
Registration No. 41,983

1400 Eye Street, NW
Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 216-9505
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510

Date: SEPT. 7, 2005